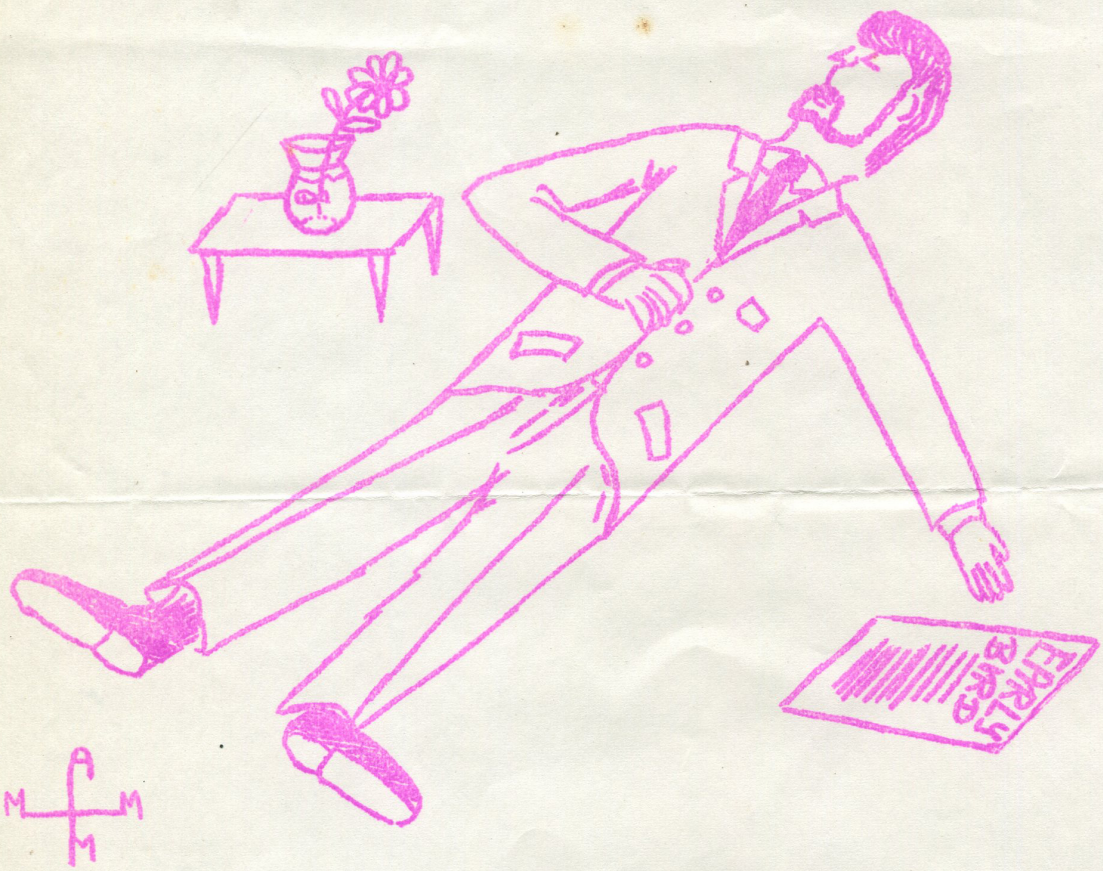
EARLY BIRD

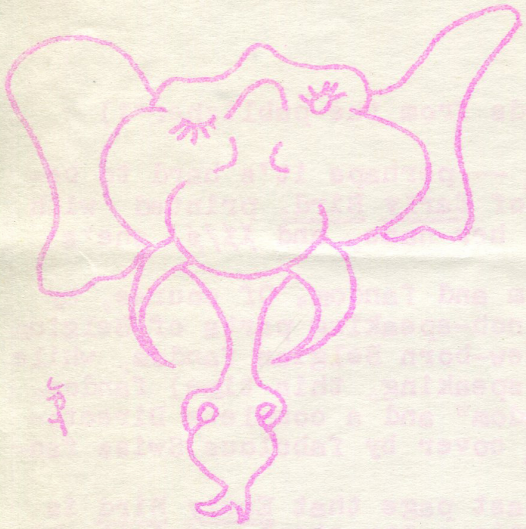


"YES, SOME TIME AGO, HE RECEIVED A SKYRACK ... AND NOW AN EARLY BIRD — IT WAS JUST TOO MUCH FOR HIS HEART !"

Ed

F-PUBL 13

December '67



EARLY BIRD

a (highly) irregular fanzine of news and comments about French stf, horror and fantasy literature, including both pro and fan activities. Early Bird is published by Michel Feron, 7 Grand-Place, HANNUT, Belgium.

our prices are: 50 Belgian francs, 5 French francs, 8/6d or $ 1.00 for 12 issues. You may pay with Belgian, French, Luxemburgian, English (good-hearted, that's me!) or US bank-notes (NO COINS, PLEASE). If you prefer, you may send 9 international reply coupons (available at all post offices) or use an international money order. Early Bird is also available for other fanzines (you send your fanzine, and I send both Early Bird and Mizar, my French fanzine, OK?) or for artwork (we can use any kind of art -- but only on ditto masters). Please don't worry about sending locs, as we have no lettercol.

art credits:

cover by André-Marie de Marignac de Montflenry

page 1 (this page): drawing by Jean-Pierre Turmel.

to comic fans: Early Bird is no longer devoted, even partially, to comic strips -- if you did suscribe only for comic strips, just write and ask to have your suscription transfered to Good Grief, my CAPA-Alpha fanzine.

GERMAN CON 1970

we need it!

JEAN RAY

ONE OF THE BEST HORROR WRITERS IN THE WORLD

read his anthology "GHOULS IN MY GRAVE" (BERKELEY PUBL. CO)

an editorial

(would you believe "some words from the publisher"?)

Well, here we are again with good ol' Early Bird -- perhaps it's hard to believe, but it's a fact: this is a brand-new issue of Early Bird, printed with a brand-new ditto machine (Jennifer II, that's ~~it's~~ her name, and ~~it's~~ she's wonderful).

As always, Early Bird is devoted to French prodom and fandom. Of course, by "French", we mean "French-speaking", including French-speaking parts of Belgium and Switzerland. This issue is mainly devoted to new-born Belgian fandom, while the next one will be devoted to French (literally speaking, this time) fandom. We'll have a "Traveller's Guide-Book to French Fandom" and a complete Directory of French Fanzines. We'll also have a wonderful cover by fabulous Swiss fan-artist Lougu.

If you understand French, you'll notice on the last page that Early Bird is (supposed to be) a "périodique trimestriel" -- that's a "quarterly periodical". It only means that we'll have at least one issue each quarter.

To end this ~~editorial~~ little babbling, I would like to plug some other very interesting fanzines, all published, like Early Bird, in English by fans from the outer darkness. They are supporting international fandom, please support them.

The Argentine SF Review is a very interesting offset fanzine published by Hector Paul Pessina, Casilla de Correo 3869, Buenos Aires, Argentine. It contains mainly reviews (books and fanzines).

Film Forum is devoted to the serious study of horror movies, and is published by Roar Ringdahl, boks 495, Drammen, Norway. British agent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts., UK.

Heck-Meck is a newszine (sort of, at least) published by Mario Kwiat and Manfred Kage, Stettiner Str. 38, 44 Munster/Westf., Germany. News, comments, reviews, etc...

Interaction is a Swedish fanzine published by Leif Anderson, Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 4D:206, LUND, Sweden. News from Scandinavian fandoms.

Sol is a beautiful thing published by Thomas Schlueck and a gang of Gerfans. Thomas' address is now Georgswall 5, Hannover, Germany. Fannish and faaannish comments.

that's all, folks!

BUT DON'T FORGET

GERMAN CON 1970

sfsfsfs

TRAVELLER'S GUIDE-BOOK TO BELGIAN FANDOM.

WRITTEN BY michel feron
WITH THE HELP OF a cassell's french dictionary

As I often say to my pupils, words are just what they are: words -- and even the most beautiful combination of words may be meaningless (and I of course give them the usual examples of "the greatest number" or "the set of all sets"...)

Till only a few months ago, "Belgian fandom" was the most beautiful combination of words (for me, at least), but, alas, it was also a meaningless combination... Of course, there were fans in Belgium -- not too many, perhaps, but there were fans, and some very active ones. But they were active in French fandom, provided that you can be active in French fandom. They were reading fanzines, or writing fan fiction, or even pubbing a fanzine. No other fannish activity was to be found in Belgium, as there were no other fannish activities in French fandom. Personal meetings were very rare, and organized meetings were unknown, even in a little land like Belgium. (I remember I went to Liège each day during five years, and never met a faned who lived there... shame! shame! shame!).

Happily, "Belgian fandom" is still the most beautiful combination of words and now it has a meaning, a wonderful meaning consisting of two clubs, a semi-prozine and some 17 fanzines.

In the beginning of times (that's the 50s), there was the Club Alpha in Antwerp, and its newszine Contact. The club died, and darkness fell again on Belgium. Centuries went over, and, a beautiful day of April 1964, Michael Grayn, from Moxhe (only 3 miles from Hannut), came with his dittoed fanzine Atlanta. Atlanta, like most other French-speaking fanzines, was mainly devoted to fan fiction. As Michael Grayn was one of my good friends, one of my short stories was included in the first issue of Atlanta -- that was my first step into fandom and, the day I received my contributor's copy, I swore I would also, some day, publish my own fanzine (oh! to be young again!).

A few months after that very memorable first issue, a Frenchman, Claude Dumont, moved to Belgium with his fanzine, Lumen. Dumont did begin the publication of his fanzine when he was in French armed forces, somewhere in the Republic-to-be of Niger. (That was, as far as I know, the only fanzine published in Africa). After the end of his military duties, Dumont came back to France, with his fanzine -- and, as I said, he moved afterwards to Belgium. Lumen, "the most fannish fanzine of French fandom", was also dittoed, and also devoted to French fan fiction, with usually a fanzine review. Since Dumont's installation in Belgium (in Liège), Lumen became more and more irregular -- so Dumont threw it into Limbo, and began another dittoed fanzine, Cosmorama, also devoted to fan fiction.

Meanwhile... meanwhile, great things happened in Atlanta: I became Michael Grayn's partner for the publication of the zine: I stapled it, did the sending, collected the money for the subscriptions and answered (sometimes) to readers' letters (no lettercols in French fanzines, you know...). Then, one day, Michael Grayn decided to try to turn pro. Atlanta became a printed mag, and was sold by newsagents. I wanted to remain a fan, so I did not follow him (he didn't want to be followed, neither). The first printed issues of Atlanta were printed with the (paid) help of a mundane organisation, the Cercle des Etudes Littéraires Françaises (CELF). The CELF became bankrupt after the 2nd printed issue of Atlanta, so Grayn decided to constitute a new fannish association, called Association Européenne des Littératures Parallèles (AELP). The AELP publish Atlanta, organize a yearly story contest and a yearly banquet.

For me, fandom is a way of life, so the next Belgian fanzine was Early Bird - a very little ugly thing that dared to call itself a newszine. Issues 0 and 1 were the only bilingual ones, and there were two different editions of issue nr 2: a French one, F2, and an English one, E2... English edition of Early Bird went into limbo after nr E3... and here is issue E4. The French edition was interrupted after issue F6/7. (Both E3 and F6/7 were dittoed on Michael Grayn's machine). Then I became very courageous and published quite a batch of French fanzines, all dittoed:

Mizar, a news-and-commentzine about pro- and fanactivities in SF and fantasy fields.

Le Journal de Jonathan Harker and Les cahiers du cinéma-bis, two zines devoted to sf, horror, erotic and adventure movies.

Ciné-Mirage, a take-off of sensational love and film magazines.

Vo n'polez nin comprind', and Augh!, two comiczines.

Le sac à charbon, a fanzine listing.

Un drôle d'oiseau, devoted to faaannish humour.

Le limaçon de Pascal, devoted to cruel humour.

I also publish two English-speaking fanzines: this Early Bird, and Good Grief, a CAPA-alpha comiczine.

Then came Ran-Tan-Plan, the mimeoed clubzine of the Cercle des Amis des Bandes Dessinées (CABD), the Belgian comic club. The first issues were quite crud, but after issue 4, Ran-Tan-Plan went offset -- and it's now a very interesting and very well printed clubzine.

The next fanzine came from Antwerp: Kosmos, a genzine published by a three-fan gang who call themselves "Vereniging ter Bestudering der Nederlandstalige Wetenschappelijke Verbeeldingsliteratuur" ("Association for the Study of Dutch-speaking SF Literature"), under the directorship of Danny De Laet. As two of the three members of the publishing gang were working in libraries, hte zine, a bilingual (French/Dutch) one, is mainly devoted to bibliography of SF. With the third issue, came le Cahier Jean Ray, a fanzine devoted to the works of famous Belgian horror writer Jean Ray. There was only one issue of le Cahier Jean Ray, but the 4th issue of Kosmos was combined with the first issues of two new fanzines: Bandès, devoted to comic strips and stfandom, and les Carnets d'Harry Dickson, a Jean Ray fanzine.

From Brussels, came La Chaise Electrique, a very interesting mimeoed fanzine devoted to fan fiction. It's very humourous, and is published by Julien Parent and Jean-Marie Buchet.

And, finally, my own brother, Alain Feron (15 years old) began to publish Galook, Gurgle,Gurgle and Gooster Time, three dittoed fanzines devoted to faaaaaaaaaaaaaaaannish humour...

As you see, we have quite a lot of fanzines here in our little land... But fanzines are only fanzines and a living fandom needs more than fanzines: clubs meetings and the like. As I've said before, personal contacts between fans were very unfrequent.

The first opportunity to meet a lot of other fans was, in Brussels, the first General Assembly of the CABD (1966). It was of course a gathering for comicfans, but as most active Belgian comicfans are also stfans, it was a very interesting assembly. The second opportunity was, in Hannut, the First Annual Banquet of the AELP (1966) -- a truly stfannish event. Alas, very, very few fans attended the Banquet (only five, not including husbands, wives and relatives of fans). There was also the second General Assembly (1967) of CABD with, once again alas, less participants and less stfans among them...

And then... and THEN... (here, 100 horns solemnly blowing, with, in the backgrounds, 1000 violins softly paying) And then, it was the MIRACLE: the Se-

cond Annual Banquet (October 17, 1967) of the AELP was a real success. Lots of fans attended -- lots of fans met lots of other fans. Of course, there were some interesting fans missing -- but most Belgian actifans attended, we even had some pros.

The second MIRACLE was the founding of Claude Dumont's COSMORAMA Club in Liège. The first meeting was held on Nov. 12, 1967 -- a very fine meeting with again, lots of fans attending.

Those two events (they'll be related in the next issue of Early Bird) were the real beginning of a real Belgian fandom.

(Well, when I began this "Traveller's Guide-Book", I just intended to
(write a short description of to-day's Belgian fandom -- but it became
(far beyond my will, a long history of Belgian fandom. I'll have to
(end it here for this issue, so

to be continued in next issue, with a description of Belgian fandom as it is now -- and a listing of all Belgian fanzines.

-:-:-:

V A R I A

A FIRST IN FRENCH FANDOM : AN ADZINE. It's called Castle of Collectors, and is published by Jean-Pierre Delmas, 15, rue Béranger, CHATILLON 92, France. Ads are FREE, and each issue cost two 0,30 French franc stamp or one international reply coupon.

ANOTHER NEW FRENCH FANZINE : "LE CHASSEUR D'ILLUSTRES" (5, boulevard Jules Ferry, 75 PARIS XI, France), devoted to popular novels, children magazines and dime novels. The first issue is free, the other issues cost 20 French francs ($ 4.00) for one year (six issues).

EDGAR ALLAN POE AS 'ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE'
To be out in February, a de-luxe hard-cover edition of an 'illustrated' adaptation of three E.A. Poe tales (The Gold Bug, The Fall of the House of Usher, Metzengerstein). The author, Alexis Thomas ("the pen-name of a talented painter"), claims he is not doing comic strips, but 'illustrated stories' ("a comic strip shows the beings' motion, while I am only giving still pictures") -- anyway what he's doing is very similar to comic strips without balloons. The book costs 35 French francs ($ 7.00), but, from the 6 pages of The Gold Bug I saw, I can tell you it's worth it. Published by SRP, 7, rue des Filles du Calvaire, 75 PARIS III, France.

SF CLUB IN NICE (France)
One year ago, a SF club was founded in Nice -- it's still the only SF club in France to have other activities than the publishing of a clubzine. The club is called "Club Littéraire d'Anticipation et de Vulgarisation Scientifique" (CLAVS). The clubzine is named Mellonta and is published by Michel Gaudo, 44, boulevard Victor Hugo, NICE 06, France.

SF CLUB TO BE ORGANIZED IN PARIS
A new club, called "FONDATION", is being organized in Paris by Gérard Calisti, 2, Villa Boissière, 75 PARIS XVI, France. He wants the future clubzine, Trantor, to be a very sophisticate fanzine, devoted to very good fan fiction.

FIRST BOOK OF BELGIAN BNF
Michael Grayn, Belgian BNF, beloved founder of Belgian fandom, publisher of the semi-prozine (and ex-fanzine) Atlanta, founder and ~~president~~ president of the "Association Européenne des Littératures Parallèles" (AELP), translator of Bram Stoker and Charles Dickens, presented his first book to Belgian fandom at the Second Annual Banquet of the AELP (more about this Banquet in some other page of thish of Early Bird). The book, Comme une Odeur de Soufre, is an anthology of ten of his horror tales and has been published by the AELP. The cover is by Tina Sol, well known Belgian fanne, whose art and fan fiction have graced many French fanzines. Foreword is by Belgian fan-publisher Serge Bertran. This very interesting book may be obtained for $ 2.00 from AELP.

GERCON 1970
we want it !

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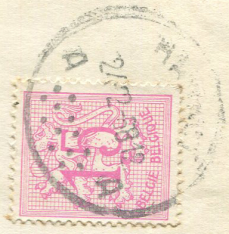
EARLY BIRD
périodique trimestriel
Michel FERON
7 Grand-Place
HANNUT BELGIUM



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DON'T FORGET

1970

VOTE FOR

GERMAN

CON

PS: THERE ARE SOME
BLANK PAGES IN THISH.—
MISTAKES CAN HAPPEN...
DON'T WORRY — NO PART IS MISSING (ED.)